NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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Triptych Presented to WHO Library

Pictured on this page are various details of a three-panel broadside from the HMD Prints Collection, "The Plague of Rome of 1656-7," a copy of which was framed for dispatch to Switzerland. Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts presented the seventeenth-century engraving to the Library of the World Health Organization on May 15, during a trip to Geneva.

The broadside depicts the measures undertaken by Roman authorities to control and eradicate the virulent plague, which had originated in Naples and reached Rome in June 1656. The city of Rome was quickly organized into four sectors, each with its own doctors, surgeons, and confessors. Pope Alexander VII and most of his cardinals remained in the city. One cardinal, the renowned Gastaldi (twice pictured on the broadside) was named General Commissioner of Health.

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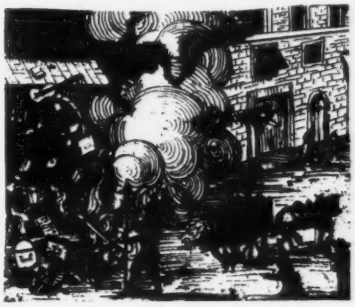

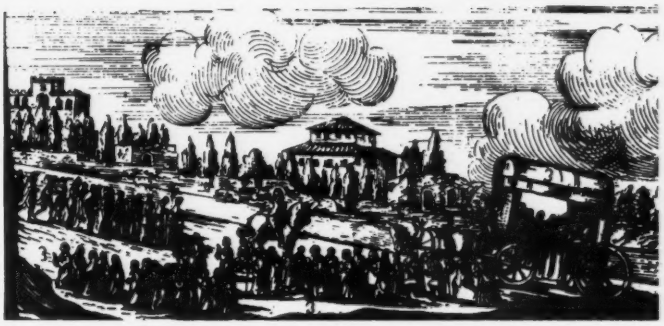

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NEWS

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(Continued from Page 1)

Sick people were placed in quarantine, and those who showed plague symptoms were further segregated from other patients. Plague-ridden houses were sealed until fumigation could either clean or destroy the contents. All trade was suspended within the city; essential trade was permitted only outside certain gates. No one was allowed on the streets at night, save officials with carts to remove the bodies of plague victims. Bodies were buried in mass graves in the fields of San Paolo fuori le Muri. Violators of the plague ordinances were dealt with swiftly and mercilessly, as some of the broadside panels show.

Library Photocopy Challenged

For 34 years, the National Library of Medicine has been servicing requests for single photocopies of articles from biomedical journals, for purposes of medical study and research. In 1957, the Library pioneered the combination of interlibrary loan and photocopy. This practice has spread generally throughout the library community, in recognition of its efficiency in providing the scientific community with rapid access to needed information.

On April 28, the Library received a letter from the firm of Williams & Wilkins, publishers of 48 journals in the biomedical sciences, stating that any copying done without their permission would be considered an infringement of copyright, and that permission would be granted "provided the person making the copies pays us a royalty of 2¢ per page per copy."

NLM has suspended photocopying of articles in all journals to which Williams & Wilkins holds copyright, and has asked for legal opinion from the Office of General Counsel, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. The General Counsel is considering the matter, in consultation with the Department of Justice. At issue is the interpretation of copyright laws and the application of principles of "fair use." The final resolution of this matter will be of vast significance to the entire library community and to those whom libraries serve.

The Library expects to be able to resume photocopy services for these journal articles within a short time, since all advice received to date indicates that there is no infringement of copyright involved with respect to the present law and that NLM has always operated within the terms of the so-called fair use provision of the "Gentlemen's Agreement" of 1935.

(Continued on Page 3)

The Library regrets any inconvenience this suspension of service may be causing the biomedical community.

Medical Historians Meet in New Haven

The American Association for the History of Medicine held its Fortieth Annual Meeting in New Haven, April 26-29. President of the Association is Frank B. Rogers, M.D., former NLM Director; Dr. John B. Blake, Chief, History of Medicine Division, is Secretary-Treasurer.

Among the participants was Peter D. Olch, M.D., Deputy Chief, History of Medicine Division, who spoke on "William Stewart Halsted and Private Practice."

On April 14, at the invitation of the Beaumont Medical Club of the Yale University Medical School, Dr. Blake delivered the Beaumont Lecture; his subject was "Anatomy and the Law."

NLM Associates Named for Coming Year

Three candidates have been selected for postgraduate training in the National Library of Medicine Associate Program for 1967/68. They are Miss Rose Marie Woodsmall, Miss Judith Ann Coffey, and Mr. James Swanton.

Miss Woodsmall, who will graduate from the Indiana University Division of Library Science in June, received a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from Indiana State University in 1963. She taught biology at the Martinsville (Ind.) High School until September 1966.

Miss Coffey holds a B. A. in English from Dunbarton College, Washington, D. C., and will receive her Master's degree in Library Science from Catholic University in August 1967. She has been working part-time at the library of the American Psychiatric Association in Washington while attending library school.

Mr. Swanton will receive his M.S. in Library Science from Columbia University in August. After earning a B.A. in Biological Sciences from Ohio State University in 1959, Mr. Swanton attended the University of London as a Special Graduate Student in English Literature from 1959 to 1961. During the following two years, he earned a Diplome in French at the Sorbonne.

The second Associate Program will begin on September 1, 1967. With rotating assignments through the Library's operating divisions, participants will be given practical experience in modern medical librarianship, with particular attention to training in all aspects of the Library's computer-based MEDLARS. Training will be supplemented by seminars and lectures, after-hours postgraduate study, visits to area medical and research libraries and information centers, and attendance at professional meetings in the Washington metropolitan area.

How Many Articles Indexed

A recent report from Leonard Karel, Ph.D., Special Assistant to the Associate Director for Intramural Programs, included an estimate of the number of articles indexed by the Library since 1879. Although the figures are only approximate, and, in a few cases, include indexing done for *Index Medicus* by other organizations, they may prove of interest to readers of the *NLM News:*

I. *Index Medicus*		II. *Current List of Medical Literature*		III. *Index-Catalogue*	
1879-1899	532,639	1941-1959	1,665,486	1880-1961	2,556,036
1900-1926	1,281,056			1880-1961	538,509 *
1960-1966	1,011,671				3,094,545
	2,825,366			*books and pamphlets	

Thus, the total number of items indexed by the Library since 1879, in its various personae (as "Library of the Surgeon-General's Office," "Army Medical Library," "Armed Forces Medical Library," and, finally, NLM), is 7,585,397 -- over seven and a half million.

And the end is not yet in sight!

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NLM GRAPHICS DIRECTOR DANIEL L. CARANGI *(right)* accepts an award for "excellence in visual communications" from Roger Stevens, Chairman of the National Council on the Arts, acting on behalf of the Society of Federal Artists and Designers. The award was won jointly by Mr. Carangi and Gerald N. Kurtz, Assistant to the Director. The ceremony pictured took place on May 1 in the patio of the Department of Agriculture Building in Washington. Co-sponsors of the exhibit were the Graduate School - U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Council on the Arts.

NLM Participants in Drug Information Meeting

The third annual meeting of the Drug Information Association, held in Philadelphia May 24-26, was focused on "The Information Triad: Producer-Processor-User of Information." Miss Winifred Sewell, Head of the Drug Literature Program, participated in a session on "Drug Information Sources Within the Government," and Mrs. Gloria Francke, also of DLP, was among the discussants of a panel on "Selection, Abstracting, Indexing, Storage and Retrieval."

Miss Sewell has served as Vice-President of the Association during 1966/67.